

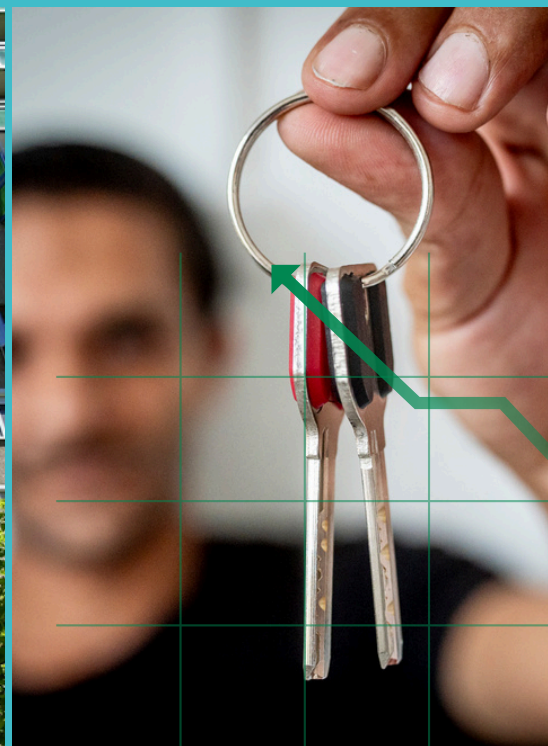


European Responsible Housing
Finance Working Group

AN INITIATIVE OF HOUSING EUROPE

EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE HOUSING BUDAPEST LOCAL WORKSHOP

21 May 2026 / Budapest, Hungary



Organised by:



With the support of:



VÁROSKUTATÁS KFT.
METROPOLITAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Funding opportunities have been made available by the [Council of Europe Development Bank \(CEB\)](#), the [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#) and the [European Union \(EU\)](#). Complemented by Structural Funds and national or local support schemes, these instruments have the potential to partially address the housing challenge by making investment systems for public, cooperative and social housing more coherent and better adapted to different national contexts.

To build the Next Generation Neighbourhoods where people can thrive, intensive exchange on financing schemes and governance models is essential. In June 2023, [Housing Europe](#) launched its **European Responsible Housing Finance Working Group** to strengthen capacity across Europe in creating healthy housing ecosystems capable of providing sustainable, long-term solutions.

The Local workshop is one of the activities of this Working Group besides the organisation of the Annual Summit, identification of investment needs, peer-to-peer learning, and mentoring. The activities are also fulfilling the goals of the [Liege Declaration](#) agreed in March 2024 which called for a European platform for exchange on housing systems.

In Budapest, [Housing Europe](#), the MR Housing Fund, and the Metropolitan Research Institute are bringing together housing providers, financial institutions, public authorities, and academics to discuss current hurdles and opportunities in financing social and affordable housing.

One of the expected goals of the event is to provide practical insights into how the MR Housing Fund can overcome financing barriers, drawing directly from the session discussions on international lessons for Hungary and on emerging EU funding opportunities. These exchanges will help identify concrete pathways for Hungarian housing providers and municipalities to strengthen their investment capacity, align with evolving European instruments, and accelerate the delivery and renovation of social and affordable homes.

EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE HOUSING LOCAL WORKSHOP, BUDAPEST

THURSDAY

21.05.2026

Venue: Ludovika University of Public Service

WELCOME COFFEE

09:00-09:30

OFFICIAL WELCOME & OPENING SESSION

09:30-10:00

Housing Europe – Initiator of the European Responsible Housing Finance Working Group

MR Housing Fund – host and co-organisator

Presentation of the Hungarian housing ecosystem (tbd)

Presentation from Judit Rozsa, Director for the Technical Support Instrument, DG REFORM, European Commission

PARALLEL SESSIONS

10:00-12:00

SESSION 1: APPROACHES TO HOUSING AFFORDABILITY: PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR HUNGARY

Moderated by Arisztid Ditzendy, the MR Housing Fund and József Hegedűs, Metropolitan Research Institute

The aim of the session is to compare how different European countries define, finance, and deliver public, cooperative, and social housing, and to understand which principles, funding models, and legal frameworks could be relevant or adaptable to the Hungary context. By looking at how different national systems respond to similar housing challenges—shaped by distinct histories, institutional traditions, and market conditions—the discussion will help identify which approaches are transferable, which rely on specific local factors, and how international experiences can inform more effective housing policy in Hungary.

Questions MR Housing Fund seeks to answer:

- *Based on your experience, which financing and institutional approaches have actually worked in mobilising and deploying EU funding for housing – and what were the key conditions behind their success?*
- *Looking at these experiences, what should a country at an early stage – like Hungary – realistically be able to adapt, and what are the typical pitfalls or limitations in doing so?*
- *What concrete steps should housing providers and public actors take in the next 2–3 years to become bankable and ready to absorb EU funding?*

Discussants in the break-out rooms:

- *MR Housing Fund*
- *MRI*
- *András Veress, Head of institutional relations, Luxembourg, MFB, Hungary*
- *Dávid Vitézy, Representative of the Municipality of Budapest*
- *Roland Papp, Ministry of National Economy*
- *Bjorn Mallants, Director of Wontroots, Flanders, Belgium*
- *Wonen in Vlaanderen, Flanders, Belgium (tbd)*
- *Raphael Lehmann, Impact Investment Manager, Erste Social Finance Holding*
- *Tamas Deak, Director Commercial Real Estate, Erste Bank Hungary*

EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE HOUSING LOCAL WORKSHOP, BUDAPEST

SESSION 1: APPROACHES TO HOUSING AFFORDABILITY: PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR HUNGARY

- Ines Callahan, (tbd) Fitch Ratings
- Stefania Ciraolo, Head of the EIB Budapest office, European Investment Bank
- Gábor Kiss, EIB Loan Officer, Public Sector Operations in Hungary
- László Stefán, Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development
- Gergely Nagy, OTP Bank
- Ivana Katuric, Director at Urbanex
- Áron Horváth, ELITINGA
- Tamás Nagy, Hungarian National Bank

SESSION 2: NEW EU FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE EUROPEAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN AND THE MFF

Moderated by Dr. Phd. Hanna Szemző, Metropolitan Research Institute

In a context of limited public support for investing in social housing in Hungary, and with the Recovery and Resilience Facility concluding at the end of the year, it is essential for the MR Housing Fund to better understand how the new EU-level instruments introduced under the European Affordable Housing Plan—such as the Pan-European Investment Platform for Affordable and Sustainable Housing, the digital portal, expert group, national hubs, and the European Housing Alliance—may support them.

The aim of the discussion will focus on concrete inputs on how Hungarian housing providers and municipalities can prepare for the next EU funding period (MFF 2028–2034) and make use of emerging financing opportunities.

Questions MR Housing Fund seeks to answer:

- *What new, practically useful housing instruments does the Affordable Housing Plan introduce?*
- *What kinds of support and financing can be expected in the coming period (ie. Pan-European Investment Platform)?*
- *What should housing providers and municipalities prepare for, and how should they prepare?*

Discussants in the break-out rooms:

- MR Housing Fund
- MRI
- Daniel Rysavka, Director of SFPI
- Grzegorz Gajewski, Housing Task Force, European Commission
- Orsolya Szalay, Head of Social Banking, Erste Bank Hungary
- CEB (tbd)
- Andrea Colantonio, Lead urban development specialist at the European Investment Bank
- MFB (tbd)
- Ivana Katuric, Director at Urbanex
- Emese Viszocky, Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta
- National Innovation Agency
- Miklós Merényi, VII.th district of Budapest
- Zsófia Szaló, Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development
- Anna Martin, assistant of MEP (EUP)
- Anna Kerékgyártó, VIII.th district of Budapest
- Bálint Missetics, Municipality of Budapest
- Municipality of Szeged

EUROPEAN RESPONSIBLE HOUSING LOCAL WORKSHOP, BUDAPEST

LUNCH	12:00-13:30
SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE SESSIONS	13:30-14:30
COFFEE BREAK	14:30-15:00
STUDY VISIT	15:00-17:30
NETWORKING COCKTAIL	17:30-19:30

FRIDAY - MR HOUSING FUND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
22.05.2026

Venue: [Ludovika University of Public Service](#)

Check the programme [here](#)

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